

Minutes
Herring River Restoration Committee (HRRC)
Cape Cod National Seashore Headquarters
Wellfleet, MA
November 4, 2015
9:30 am-5:00 pm

Members Present: Tim Smith, Eric Derleth, Steve Spear, Steve Block, Hunt Durey, Hillary Greenberg

Others Present: Margo Fenn, Don Palladino, Chris Rein, Helen Miranda Wilson, Mark Husbands (by phone)

Administration/Coordination

Communications/Coordination with Friends of Herring River (FHR): Don Palladino updated the Committee on recent and upcoming events. There are several strong candidates for the Administrative Assistant position. Chris Rein and Don Palladino will be interviewing candidates next week. Sarah Fleming, the Manager of Conservation Programs for the North Atlantic, Ducks Unlimited will visit Wellfleet on November 13, 2015. FHR will brief her on the Restoration Project and take her out to see the Project area. FHR is seeking to establish a partnership with Ducks Unlimited along with the Nature Conservancy and Audubon as the Project moves to the next phase.

Minutes: The Committee voted to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2015 HRRC meeting.

Meeting Schedule: The Committee approved the following schedule for upcoming meetings:

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| November 5-7, 2015 | Adaptive Management meetings |
| December 3, 2015 | HRRC regular meeting |
| January 7, 2016 | HRRC regular meeting |

Work Plan Updates: Hunt Durey noted that there are some big picture questions that need to be resolved before committing all of the funds in the 2015 work plan. He suggested that the Committee evaluate how best to structure the Project phasing so as to address mitigation needs and ensure that the permitting process can proceed in a timely way.

CBI Facilitation: The Committee discussed the latest facilitation session with the Chequessett Yacht and Country Club (CYCC) and next steps in that process.

Mark Husbands of the National Park Service (NPS) Environmental Quality Division (EQD) joined the call by phone. The group discussed completion of the FEIS/EIR as planned and Alternative D, the preferred alternative. The Record of Decision (ROD) will

stipulate that monitoring will be conducted to determine the effects of the Herring River Restoration and commit to any needed mitigation.

Adaptive Management Monitoring/Tide Monitoring: The Committee discussed several consulting proposals that relate to monitoring for the adaptive management process. The Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies (CCS) has proposed to do water quality monitoring/analysis and the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) would perform stable isotope analysis. This work is needed to establish baseline information. In addition, the Woods Hole Group (WHG) has suggested that FHR purchase stream monitoring equipment for the Project. WHG recently submitted a proposal to purchase this equipment and train HRRC and/or FHR to use it. The group discussed priorities for stream flow data collection, including Upper Pole Dike Creek and Mill Creek.

WHG is also preparing a proposal for installing tide stations in the estuary. The Committee discussed how many tide stations might be needed and where they should be located.

Functional Ecosystem Modeling: Tim Smith and Eric Derleth are working with WHG to develop a scope of work for several sediment monitoring tasks. This proposal is expected next week and will include the bathymetric mapping that the HRRC discussed in October.

Blue Carbon: Restore America's Estuaries has revised its proposal and FHR is ready to sign the agreement for this work.

Secondary Management Plan: The Committee discussed how to approach preparation of a plan for secondary management activities such as vegetation clearing, channel modifications and dredging. The group acknowledged that much of the area to be managed is within Cape Cod National Seashore. NPS has a fire management program that typically handles vegetation clearing within the park. Work on private land would have to be negotiated with landowners.

Hunt Durey asked whether Cape Cod National Seashore has the capacity to do this work. He noted that the HRRC had discussed at an earlier meeting having the lead permitting consultant put together a plan for secondary management activities. Tim Smith suggested that the permitting approach could be similar to open marsh water management and integrated marsh management general permits issued to local mosquito control programs, stipulating general techniques and practices to use based on specific site conditions.

Permitting: ESS is preparing a draft regulatory guidance document for HRRC and FHR to review. This will be finalized after ESS receives comments from the Committee. The deliverables for this contract include templates for other consultants to use in preparing permit narratives and plans. The Committee discussed when to engage the lead regulatory consultant, given uncertainties about Project phasing. The group agreed to move ahead with soliciting proposals for this work, with the understanding that the consultant would focus first on the main infrastructure elements that will definitely be

included in the first phase of permitting.

The Committee also discussed revised proposals from ESS and Singer & Singer to prepare the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) application to the Cape Cod Commission (CCC). Further detail is needed regarding Singer & Singer's responsibilities and costs. Also FHR needs to consult the towns about representing the Project before the Cape Cod Commission. Hunt Durey suggested that the scope of work for the Singer & Singer contract be broken into phases, the initial phase to include preparation and filing of the DRI and hardship exemption application, and attendance at a specified number of meetings and hearings. Any further work would need to be approved in a subsequent contract amendment.

High Toss Road: FHR has a revised contract from ESS to prepare design plans for High Toss Road. One remaining issue is the timing of the public meetings. Don Palladino expressed concern about waiting until February to present the latest concepts to the public.

Rare Species: Fieldwork is complete for this year's rare species monitoring. When the reports are completed, HRRC will set up a meeting between the consultants and the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) staff to review the results and discuss if additional work is needed for the coming season.

Chequessett Neck Road Bridge/Tide Gate Design: Fuss & O'Neill is continuing its work to prepare permit-ready design plans for the new bridge and tide gates.

Mill Creek Dike: Fuss & O'Neill is surveying the area around the Mill Creek dike this week.

Low-lying Road Design: Louis Berger Group (LBG) is working on the next phase of low-lying road engineering and analysis. The final report is expected by the end of December.

Other Road and Driveway Design: LBG has submitted a draft proposal for this work.

Low-lying Properties: Martha Rheinhardt reported on recent meetings with affected property owners. The Committee discussed what monitoring might be needed for these properties. Eric Derleth noted that the Town of Yarmouth is developing a sample agreement with property owners for the Parkers River project. This could be another example of how to structure agreements with property owners.

Cultural Resource Assessment: NPS Archaeologist Jim Harmon is preparing a scope of work to do cultural resource investigations in and around the access route for the Mill Creek dike.

Adaptive Management-Consultation with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Team: Dave Smith, Jill Gannon, and Mitch Eaton of USGS joined the meeting. They gave the

Committee an update on the status of the Adaptive Management Plan, reviewing the objectives, performance measures, management actions, modeling and monitoring. They also provided a presentation to prepare the group for an elicitation exercise that was planned for the following day.

Documents Referred to in the Meeting:

-Minutes of the October 15, 2015 HRRC Meeting